

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) An apparatus including:

a cassette,

wherein the cassette is adapted for use in an automated banking machine,

wherein the cassette is operative to hold media therein,

~~wherein the cassette has an outer surface,~~

~~wherein the cassette includes a plurality of indicator members movably
connected thereto,~~

~~wherein each of the members includes an end thereof and an axis,~~

~~wherein the axis is generally perpendicular to the outer
surface,~~

~~wherein each end is operative to be moved between a first
axial position and a second axial position,~~

~~wherein at least one of the first and second positions is spaced
outwardly from the outer surface,~~

~~wherein at least one of the first and second positions is indicative
of data regarding the cassette~~

wherein the cassette includes at least one indicator member,

wherein the at least one indicator member includes data therewith
regarding the cassette,

wherein the data is operative to be read by an automated
banking machine,

wherein the data is operative to be read without
requiring physical contact between the indicator
member and a component of the machine.

2-44. (canceled)

45. (new) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the data is representative of cassette
identifying information.

46. (new) The apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the identifying information pertains to a unique identification number associated with the cassette.

47. (new) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the data is representative of cassette content information.

48. (new) The apparatus according to claim 47 wherein the cassette content information pertains to at least one media characteristic.

49. (new) The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein the media comprises currency, and wherein the cassette content information pertains to at least one currency characteristic.

50. (new) The apparatus according to claim 49 wherein the at least one currency characteristic relates to currency nationality, currency denomination, currency length, currency height, currency thickness, currency code, amount of currency loaded in the cassette, time the cassette was loaded with currency, date the cassette was loaded with currency, identifying information pertaining to the currency loading entity, or any combination thereof.

51. (new) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the indicator member comprises a non-contact transponder operative to communicate with an automated banking machine.

52. (new) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the indicator member comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag.

53. (new) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the tag is embedded in the cassette.

54. (new) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the tag is removably attached to the cassette.

55. (new) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the tag carries data representative of a cassette identification number.

56. (new) The apparatus according to claim 55 wherein the cassette identification number has a length of at least 32 bits.

57. (new) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the tag includes a programmable memory.

58. (new) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein the apparatus further includes an automated banking machine.

59. (new) The apparatus according to claim 58 wherein the automated banking machine comprises an ATM.

60. (new) The apparatus according to claim 59 wherein the ATM includes the cassette therein.

61. (new) The apparatus according to claim 60 wherein the ATM includes a tag reader with circuitry operative to interrogate the tag to receive information about the cassette from the tag.

62. (new) The apparatus according to claim 61 wherein the tag reader circuitry comprise a circuit card assembly.

63. (new) The apparatus according to claim 61 wherein the tag lacks a power source, and wherein the reader is operative to receive information about the cassette via RF energy provided by the reader.

64. (new) The apparatus according to claim 61 wherein the reader is operative to receive encrypted information about the cassette.

65. (new) The apparatus according to claim 64 wherein the reader comprises a decoder in decoding circuitry.

66. (new) An apparatus including:

a cassette,

wherein the cassette includes currency,

wherein the cassette includes at least one radio frequency identification (RFID) tag,

wherein the at least one tag includes data representative of a characteristic of the currency,

an automated banking machine,

wherein the automated banking machine comprises a dispenser feed channel,

wherein the dispenser feed channel includes a cassette reader,

wherein the reader is operative to remotely read the tag data.

67. (new) The apparatus according to claim 66 wherein the reader is operative to read the tag data while the tag is in physically contactless relationship with the machine.

68. (new) The apparatus according to claim 67 wherein the reader is spaced from the tag.

69. (new) The apparatus according to claim 68 wherein the reader is operative to read the tag data via RF energy provided by the reader.

70. (new) The apparatus according to claim 66 wherein the tag includes a programmable memory.

71. (new) The apparatus according to claim 66 wherein the reader comprise a circuit card assembly.

72. (new) The apparatus according to claim 66 wherein the apparatus further includes an automated banking machine network, wherein the network includes a plurality of automated banking machines, wherein each automated banking machine includes a plurality of currency cassettes.

73. (new) The apparatus according to claim 72 wherein the network can track the amount of currency in an automated banking machine.

74. (new) The apparatus according to claim 73 wherein the network can track the amount of currency in each automated banking machine in the network.

75. (new) The apparatus according to claim 74 wherein the network can determine the amount of currency in the network.

76. (new) The apparatus according to claim 75 wherein the network is operative to provide currency information in real time.

77. (new) A method including:

- (a) providing a media cassette in an automated banking machine, wherein the cassette includes at least one data tag, wherein the tag contains information representative of a characteristic of the cassette,
- (b) reading the tag with a tag reader to obtain the cassette information, wherein the machine includes the tag reader, wherein the tag reader is operative to remotely read the tag without the tag contacting the machine.

78. (new) The method according to claim 77 wherein the tag comprises a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag, and wherein (b) includes reading the tag using radio frequency (RF).

79. (new) The method according to claim 78 wherein the tag contains information representative of a cassette identification number, and wherein (b) includes reading the cassette identification number.

80. (new) An apparatus including:

an automated banking machine cassette,

wherein the cassette is operative to hold media therein,

wherein the cassette includes at least one indicator member,

wherein the at least one indicator member is operative to provide
information representative of a characteristic of the cassette,

wherein the information is operative to be remotely
accessed by a disposed component of an automated banking
machine.

81. (new) The apparatus according to claim 80 wherein the indicator member is operative to
provide information representative of cassette content.

82. (new) The apparatus according to claim 81 wherein the cassette contains media therein,
wherein the indicator member is operative to provide information representative of a
characteristic of the cassette media.

83. (new) The apparatus according to claim 82 wherein the indicator member comprises a target.

84. (new) The apparatus according to claim 83 wherein the target is operative to provide information representative of a cassette position in a machine.

85. (new) The apparatus according to claim 84 wherein the apparatus further includes an automated banking machine, wherein the machine has the cassette therein.

86. (new) The apparatus according to claim 85 wherein the automated banking machine comprises a distance determining device, wherein the determining device is operative to determine the distance between the target and a component of the automated banking machine.

87. (new) The apparatus according to claim 86 wherein the determining device comprises a sensor, wherein the sensor is operative to measure the distance between the target and the sensor.

88. (new) The apparatus according to claim 87 wherein the sensor comprises an Eddy current type distance sensor.

89. (new) The apparatus according to claim 87 wherein the automated banking machine comprises a dispenser feed channel, wherein the sensor is part of a sensor circuit associated with the dispenser feed channel.

90. (new) The apparatus according to claim 83 wherein the target comprises a metal, and wherein the metal is attached to or embedded into the cassette.

91. (new) The apparatus according to claim 90 wherein the target comprises Ferrite.

92. (new) A method including:

- (a) providing a media cassette in an automated banking machine, wherein the cassette includes at least one cassette target;
- (b) remotely sensing a cassette target with a sensor, wherein the machine includes the sensor, wherein the sensor is operative to sense the cassette target without the cassette target contacting the machine.

93. (new) The method according to claim 92 and further including

- (c) measuring a distance to the cassette target.

94. (new) The method according to claim 93 and further including

- (d) determining the position of the cassette relative to the machine based on the distance measured in (c).